

Dental Assistant

Holland code family: Organizers

About the Program

This four-term certificate program prepares students to meet the requirements to become dental assistants with expanded functions (EFDA). Successful completion of the program leads to eligibility to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) certified dental assisting (CDA) exam. The curriculum is based in general dentistry; students are trained in four-handed chair-side assisting techniques to work with general dentists during all phases of patient examination and treatment.

Program students attend classes as part of a structured cohort that begins each year in summer term. Students should apply early as the required mandatory orientation is scheduled several months prior to the summer start. Note: Students may still be working on prerequisites to cohort acceptance classes when applying.

Working dental assistants with six months of current, continuous, chair-side employment may also enroll in classes without formal admittance into the program, and without joining a cohort. Working dental assistants may attend most classes, but preference will be given to cohort students. Working dental assistants can enhance their education and eligibility to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) certified dental assisting (CDA) exam by taking RCC dental classes.

If students intend to transfer to Oregon Tech's bachelor's degree in Allied Health Management after successfully passing the registry or licensure exam, transfer courses should be chosen from the list of electives where possible. See an advisor for more information or visit www.oit.edu/programs/klamath-falls/management/allied-health-management/overview.

The curriculum in RCC courses is derived from a set of identified learning outcomes that are relevant to the discipline. Program learning outcomes for the Dental Assistant program are:

Demonstrate patient education and management skills:

Provide oral health instruction and counseling. Recommend home-care strategies. Recognize patient abilities to properly care for their teeth. Translate dental terminology to layman's terms. Advise patients on impact of diet on oral health. Identify normal and pathological abnormalities of the oral structures. Perform extra oral tissue examinations.

Demonstrate administrative office skills:

Accurately review health history forms with patients. Practice effective interpersonal and communication skills. Model professional conduct and appearance, and demonstrate professional behaviors consistent to the dental workplace. Identify and effectively manage time and resources.

Demonstrate occupational safety skills:

Apply current concepts of infection control and occupational safety. Engage and assist in the management of medical and dental emergencies and administer basic life support procedures, when indicated. Demonstrate proficiency in sterilizing instruments and disinfecting equipment.

Demonstrate general chair-side skills:

Assist in diagnostic and operative procedures. Perform clinical supportive functions during pre-treatment, treatment, and post-treatment phases. Demonstrate proper tray setups. Identify and differentiate between esthetic and restorative treatment procedures.

Demonstrate fluency and competency dealing with legal and ethical issues:

Practice exercising sound clinical judgment while performing duties within existing ethical and legal parameters of the clinical dental practice. Practice compliance with OSHA, OR-OSHA, and HIPAA regulations.

Demonstrate radiographic proficiencies:

Demonstrate proper film placement for intra- and extra-oral films and expose, process, and mount radiographs of diagnostic quality. Effectively communicate radiographic safety techniques and concerns to patients and peers and acquire maximum diagnostic yield with minimal exposure to radiation.

Demonstrate dental and laboratory sciences skills:

Apply knowledge of basic dental sciences in professional setting, use correct dental terminology, take alginate impressions, and complete laboratory procedures, including pouring and trimming molds and study casts.

Entry Requirements

Students are required to complete the Placement Process to determine skill level and readiness in math, reading, and writing. As part of their training program, students must begin with the courses within their skill level as determined through the Placement Process. In addition, students may also be required to enroll in classes that would increase their employability and success.

This is a limited-entry program. Cohort students must meet certain minimum academic requirements (MTH20, RD90 and WR90, or WR91) before the program application due date. All listed program prerequisites must be satisfactorily completed before beginning the cohort.



Selection Process

All applications will be date stamped and reviewed in the order received. Applicants will be selected by committee. The screening process includes a mandatory orientation and an interview. A criminal background check and drug screening will be required for students once they are accepted into the program. This is a competitive program and not all qualified applicants may be accepted.

Advanced Standing

Coursework from accredited colleges and universities will be accepted in accordance with college policies and the program coordinator's recommendation. In order to ensure coursework is current, program courses over five years old must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate department coordinator before being accepted toward core requirements. College Now credit will be accepted in accordance with the current agreement.

Graduation Requirements

Students completing all courses in this program with a grade of "C" or better will receive their certificates. Certain required courses are graded on a pass/no pass basis only. A grade of "P" for these courses indicates a student earned the equivalent of a "C" or better grade. Credits earned in this program can be applied to the Associate of General Studies degree.

Prerequisites to Application

Course No.	Course Title	Credit
MTH20	Pre-algebra or designated placement test score	0-4
RD90/WR90	College Reading/Fundamentals of Composition or WR91 Fundamentals of Academic Literacy (WR91 substitutes for both RD90 and WR90) or designated placement test score	0-8

Total Prerequisite Credits 0-12

Prerequisites to Cohort Acceptance ¹

Course No.	Course Title	Credit
BT101	Human Relations in Organizations or PSY101 Psychology of Human Relations	3
BT113	Business English I or WR115 Introduction to Expository Writing or higher level composition class ²	3-4
CS/CIS	Approved 3-4 credit Computer Science or Computer Information Science class, CS120/CIS120 or above, or documented computer proficiency within the past ten years.	0-4
MTH63	Applied Algebra I or MTH60 Fundamentals of Algebra I or BT160 Business Math or higher level math	4
SP100	Basic Communication or SP111 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or SP218 Interpersonal Communication	3-4

Total Prerequisite to Cohort Credits 13-19

Required Courses

Course No.	Course Title	Credit
First Term (Summer)		
AH100	Medical Terminology	3
AH105	Communication and Professional Behavior	2
DA101	Dental Assisting I	4
DA101A/B	Dental Assisting I Lab	1
DA202	Infection Control	2
HE252	First Aid/CPR 1 or HE112 Emergency First Aid and HE261 CPR/Basic Life Support Provider	2-3 14-15
Second Term (Fall)		
DA102	Dental Assisting II	4
DA102A/B	Dental Assisting II Lab	1
DA103	Dental Materials	2
DA104	Dental Administration	2
DA150	Introduction to Practicum and Seminar	1
DA201	Dental Radiology	4 14
Third Term (Winter)		
DA105	Legal and Ethical Issues in Dentistry	2
DA106	Dental and Medical Emergency Management	2
DA152	Practicum and Seminar in Dental Assisting I	4
DA201A/B	Radiology Lab	2
DA203	Chair-side Assisting	2 12
Fourth Term (Spring)		
DA153	Practicum and Seminar in Dental Assisting II	4
DA204	Expanded Functions Dental Assistant	2
DA204A/B	Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Lab	1
—	Approved program elective	0-5 7-12
TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS		47-53

Approved Program Electives (0-5 credits allowed)

Course No.	Course Title	Credit
AH110	Medical Terminology: Clinical	3
BA101	Introduction to Business	4
BT102	Introduction to Supervision	3
CG100	College Success and Survival	2
CG105	Finding the Money: Scholarship Essay Writing	1
HCI20	Introduction to Health Care Industry	3
HS152	Stress Management	1
LIB127	Introduction to Academic Research	1
MTH	Any math course numbered MTH60 or above (if not taken to fulfill math requirement)	4-5
RD115	Speedreading for College	3
SP100	Basic Communication (if not taken as prerequisite)	3
SP111	Fundamentals of Public Speaking (if not taken as prerequisite)	4
SP218	Interpersonal Communication	4
SPAN101,102,103	First Year Spanish I, II, III	4-4-4
SPAN201,202,203	Second Year Spanish I, II, III	4-4-4
SRV101	Service Learning	1-3
WR110	Understanding English Grammar	2
WR121	English Composition I (if not taken to fulfill writing requirement)	4
WR122	English Composition II	4
WR227	Technical Writing	4
—	Any college-level science course numbered 100 and above	3-5
—	Any health or physical education course	variable

¹ Required for graduation.

² Students who have successfully completed the 3-credit version of BT113 will have met the composition requirement.

For more information contact the Dental Assistant program coordinator:

Grants Pass or Medford.....	541-245-7750
Toll free in Oregon	800-411-6508, Ext. 7750
email	dental@rogucecc.edu
Web address	www.rogucecc.edu/alliedhealth/dental
TTY	Oregon Telecom Relay Service, 711

This advising guide is for advising purposes only. Please see current college catalog for additional information on specific college policies and graduation requirements.

RCC is an open institution and does not discriminate. For RCC's non-discrimination policy and a full list of regulatory specific contact persons visit the following webpage: www.rogucecc.edu/nondiscrimination.

